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The Midland Reporter-Telegram (Midland, Texas) · Sun, Aug 9, 1987 · Page 14
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VOLUNTEER

(Continued from Page 1B)

Several Mennonites and on-the-job carpenter-trainees from Saragosa built the house in far less than a week.

"We're not here for any big show or big to-do," Miller said. "We're here to meet the needs of the people."

Miller cited the cooperation among the religious sects, including Seventh-day Adventists, Mennonites and Baptists, who have and are donating the services of their skilled workers to rebuild the Spanish-speaking Catholic community. Prior to the tornado, the community's population was about 300.

"We have one common thing in mind," Miller said. "We have Christ as our Savior. We are Christians, and being Christians unites us together. It puts us on common ground."

Two weeks ago, the Mennonites built an addition to the Balmorhea house of a woman whose mother's Saragosa house was destroyed. The mother will be living with her daughter. Balmorhea is about eight miles from Saragosa.

Last week, the Mennonites started construction of two one-bedroom houses in Saragosa.

On a shaded work bench, two retired San Angelo men who are members of Texas Baptist Men, were readying electrical boxes for mounting on poles.

"We both are retired," said Delle Bolin, 66, "and we wanted to do something for somebody else."

His friend, Horace West, 72, said the work "gives you a feeling of satisfaction of doing something for these (Saragosa) kids that are going to be grown one day."

Down the road from Saragosa in an old cotton gin, an 80-year-old retired Texas Christian University biology professor was building framework for Saragosa houses.

"I left those doctoral degrees behind," said Dr. Sanders Truman Lyles of Fort Worth. "Everybody calls me 'Sandy.'"

In explaining his mission here, Lyles noted that "the Christian life goes beyond home. My Christian life supersedes everything else."

"Come Thursday before Labor Day," Lyles said, "we'll attack it big. We'll do 12 times this much in one run. That's 'the big push.'"

COORDINATING "the big push" is John LaNoue of the Texas Baptist Men's Disaster Services, which serves food and rebuilds in the wake of natural disasters, such as earthquakes, hurricanes, floods and tornadoes.

The organization has served in disaster sites in Mexico City, Corpus Christi, New Orleans, Galveston,

John LaNoue ... Baptist

Vern Miller ...Mennonite

Wichita Falls, Sweetwater, the Golden Triangle of Beaumont-Port Arthur-Orange, Guatemala and Haiti.

Over the long Labor Day weekend, the thrust of the building boom is to hit Saragosa.

"Of course," he said, "it's best for us when we're able to build a bunch of houses at one time.

Many of the estimated 500 builders who will be working here for the "big push" will be retirees headed by Olen Miles, the 80-year-old director of Texas Baptist Men's retired builders. Wilton Davis, president of Texas Baptist Men, will head up other volunteer-builders.

By Aug. 24, the buildup of materials, bought with American Red Cross and Federal Emergency Management Administration funds, and floodlights for 24-hour building are to be in place.

At the outset, volunteers will be building 24 one-, two- and three-bedroom houses of up to 960 square feet.

Those 24 houses will replace owner-occupied houses which were destroyed by the tornado.

Of the 61 houses that were destroyed by the storm, most were not occupied by owners. As a result, households who lived in houses unowned by them failed to achieve eligibility for building grants, LaNoue said.

However, grants for funds to build the remaining 37 houses may be forthcoming from the Texas Department of Community Affairs.

"IT COULD be that we are going to build back 61 houses instead of 24," LaNoue said.

The volunteers' work has reached beyond tornado victims.

"We're getting ready to build one house for a lady who wasn't even a victim," LaNoue said. "But a church in Pecos took one look at her house and said that woman needs help,' so they's a Baptist church committing the money to build a house for a Catholic lady."

The spirit of the program follows the ministry of Jesus Christ, LaNoue said.

"Jesus did two thing in all of his life on Earth," LaNoue said. "He met human needs where he found them, and he introduced them to God. He used his meeting of human needs as a springboard to introduce them to God."

Baptist LaNoue recalled the 3½-year rebuilding project following the 1979 Wichita Falls tornado, a disaster in which 42 people were killed, 1,740 others were injured, 3,000 homes were destroyed, and 20,000 people were left homeless.

After the rebuilding, parts of the city were flooded, and volunteers returned to Wichita Falls to clean out the mud and to repair houses. But only one Mennonite, a spokesman, showed up for the second round of work. "Praise God (for) those wonderful people," exclaimed a Methodist minister at the time.

But the lone Mennonite, said LaNoue, noted that his ilk were not returning to Wichita Falls in the aftermath of the flood.

"'You see,' he explained, "'we came during your tornado, and we stayed 3½ years building houses in trying to show you how Christians are supposed to respond to brothers in need. They sent me back to see if you've learned your lesson.'"

And the others, recalled LaNoue, shouted "'Let's get with it.'"

DEATHS

Ruth Phillips

Services for Mrs. W.M. (Ruth) Phillips, 75, of Midland will be held 2 p.m. today at the Crestview Baptist Church with Dr. Kenneth Hall officiating. Burial will follow at the Andrews Cemetery at 4 p.m. with Rev. H.A. Hanks of the First Baptist Church of Andrews officiating.

Services are under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home.

Mrs. Phillips died Friday afternoon at a local hospital.

She was born Sept. 1, 1912, in Claude. She was reared in Panhandle, where her family was one of the founding families of Carson County. After graduation from West Texas State Teachers College in Canyon, she taught school in Panhandle for two years.

She married W.M. "Phil" Phillips on Oct. 1, 1933, in Canyon. The couple lived in Andrews and reared their six children there beginning in 1955. They moved to Midland in 1985.

Mrs. Phillips was active in the First Baptist Church in Andrews and Crestview Baptist Church in Midland. She was preceded in death by her husband and a son, Walter Ray "Buddy" Phillips.

Survivors include a son, Joe T. Phillips of Midland; four daughters, Mrs. Anna Gallagher and Mrs. Joyce Besek, both of Midland, Mrs. Billye Swanson of Lubbock, and Mrs. Jackie Churchill of Phoenix, Az.; 13 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be Joe T. Phillips II, Eddie Gallagher, Danny Swanson, Ray Salazar, Steve Smith, Ray Gallagher, Dale Allen, Billy Glazier and David Dunn.

The family requests memorials be directed to the Cal Farley Boys' Ranch in Amarillo.

Lois M. Ricketts

Graveside services for Lois M. Ricketts of Midland will be held 10 a.m. Monday at New Bateman Cemetery with Rev. Mack Blackwell officiating.

Mrs. Ricketts died at a local hospital early Saturday.

She was born Dec. 18, 1914, in Red Rock, was reared in Bastrop County and moved to San Antonio in the 1930s. After living there for 40 years, she moved to Midland in 1980. She was a member of the Baptist Church.

Survivors include two sisters, Mrs. Ruth Oldfield of Modesto, Calif., Mrs. Miriam Hayes of Midland and several nieces and nephews.

Convenience store robbery probed by Midland police

From Staff Reports

Midland police are investigating the early Saturday morning robbery of a local convenience store by a knife-wielding man, according to reports.

About 3:25 a.m., a man walked into the Kent Kwik convenience store, 2910 N. Big Spring, and produced a knife with a three-inch blade when the clerk walked behind the counter, police said.

The man then threatened the clerk and ordered him to open the cash register. He ran out of the store and fled on foot, according to reports.

The clerk was not injured, police said.

The suspect was described as a black man in his mid-20s, five feet seven inches tall to five feet nine inches tall, weighing about 150 pounds with black hair and brown eyes. He was last seen wearing a gray T-shirt, beige shorts, and blue tennis shoes with white socks.

Police Sgt. Louis Watts were called to search the area, but the suspect escaped, according to reports.

In other reports, police have identified a suspect in the burglary of a room at the Ramada Hotel, 3100 W. Wall St. A radar detector valued at $300 was stolen between 9 a.m. Friday and 11 a.m. Saturday from a room rented by a guest, reports said.

Police also also investigating the burglary of a residence in the 1700 block of Dallas Street. A videocassette recorder valued at $300 was reported stolen Saturday between noon and 12:30 p.m., police said.

Police Roundup

Unincorporated Leroy Bank closed by state commissioner

LEROY (AP) — The Leroy Bank was under guard by a lone watchman Saturday after the Texas banking commissioner closed the private, unincorporated bank.

The bank, which was opened in 1907, was declared insolvent late Friday and no outstanding checks will be honored, officials said.

Leroy is a town of about 230 people 15 miles northeast of Waco. Most of the bank's customers were from Leroy and the adjoining towns of Tours and Gerald.

The bank held deposits of about $6 million. Because the bank is unregulated, the 600 depositors may lose most or all of their money. It is unclear whether the deposits were insured.

"The loan portfolio was in bad shape," said Texas Banking Commissioner Ken Littlefield. "Many loans were past due several years and the documentation was extremely bad. If you just took the notes at face value, they were balance sheet insolvent at $800,000."

Littlefield said that when the Chilton Private Bank south of Waco was closed May 14, the Leroy Bank started experiencing a "runoff of deposits."

With the shutdown of the Chilton bank and the Leroy Bank, only three other private banks remain in the state.

On May 14, Leroy bank was sold to Ronald O. Bailey of Berkeley, Calif., by W.H. Janes of Leroy, whose failure helped found the bank 80 years ago.

MADD chapter closing

HOUSTON (AP) — The Harris County chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving is shutting down this month because of a lack of leadership, a spokesman for the national office said.

The closing of the local chapter Aug. 21 comes about a year after its officers were fired in July 1986 by the national office over allegations of mismanagement.

Former president Marinelle Timmons, who founded the chapter after her son was killed by a drunken driver, expressed disappointment over the chapter's demise.

"I feel, in a way, that a part of me has died. I started MADD to do something so that my son's life wouldn't have been lost for nothing. ... This whole situation has been really difficult for me, because I'd put so much into it and hoped it would be there forever," she said.

FATHER

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Candelas has been joined by his 36-year-old son, Saul Candelas of El Paso, in building a work shed and in making concrete building tile for his new store. American Red Cross funds, which will be used in buying materials for houses, cannot be used to replace commercial buildings.

"Most everybody plans to stay here," he said.

His son, who is head of the El Paso Community College's Computer-based Occupations Division, is helping his father rebuild.

And the younger Candelas is interested in improving the literacy level of Saragosa's people by encouraging the setting up of a literacy center.

"They need a literacy center," he said. "This whole town would progress much faster if this town were literate, and it's not just English (but also Spanish).

"They've got to learn to read. It's just basic," he said.

The senior Candelas and his son have been working in the early mornings and late afternoons and nights, because daytime temperatures, occasionally cooled by showers, sometimes rise to 114 degrees.

"It's a beautiful place to stay," Jose Candelas said.

Saragosa lies within sight of the Davis Mountains in far Southwest Texas.

"It's too hot, but still, it's beautiful," he said. "Life is peaceful here, not much trouble, not much crime, just quiet."

Marlin struggles to deal with deadly legacy

MARLIN (AP) — For 18 months, Jimmy Glenn Etheridge sold insurance to Marlin's low-income families and ingratiated himself with his clients and their sons.

Now, six weeks after his death, Marlin's 7,000 residents are trying to deal with the legacy left by Etheridge, one that could kill.

Etheridge brought AIDS, the distant danger, to town. He may have spread it to more than 50 of the young sons of his insurance clients, authorities say.

"He told them that he wanted to be like a big brother and take care of the kids," said G.J. Kouba, the police-man who found Etheridge's body June 30. "He bought them expensive gifts, all the things their mothers couldn't provide for them. He would do things with them, make them feel like they were worth doing something with ... but he had other ideas in mind."

Etheridge was shot to death by a 16-year-old boy described as a housemate, who Falls County District Attorney Thomas Sehon said would not be prosecuted.

After the boy told Kouba of a trunk containing homosexual magazines and Polaroid photos of Etheridge with young boys, investigators discovered computer files detailing explicitly his sexual contacts with boys.

The horror story grew when an autopsy showed Etheridge had been exposed to acquired immune deficiency syndrome, the disease that kills by destroying the body's ability to fight infection. Experts believe sexual contact is among the leading ways AIDS is spread.

It is juvenile probation officer Debra Coca's job to contact the families of the 54 children whose names and addresses have turned up so far in Etheridge's computer files, which were retrieved with the help of a computer expert in nearby Waco.

Ten of the boys live in Marlin, in Central Texas. The others are in Louisiana, Colorado, California, Mississippi and Mexico. So far, six local children have been tested for AIDS, but officials are not releasing results.

"People in town who knew Mr. Etheridge find it hard to believe that he could have that type of life in his background, hidden away. He seemed to be such a nice person," Ms. Coca said.

In addition to notifying families of children in the computer files, officials are trying to notify everyone who bought insurance from Etheridge, a 38-year-old divorced father of two.

"My elected job is to prosecute criminals, but I have a moral responsibility to take it beyond just the murder part," said Sehon, the local district attorney. "We don't know how many people it will be. It's probably impossible to notify every single person who said hello to him or shook his hand."

Marlin School Superintendent Joe Campbell, who lives down the street from the modest frame house Etheridge rented, said the district is trying to figure out how to handle the problem.

"We read about AIDS and it's always in the big cities and now, suddenly, it's here," he said.

Chad Brown, the local public health officer, said he knew of only one previous AIDS case in the area, involving an out-of-town man who came for an exam while visiting his mother in a nearby city. The man died.

"Physicians see (AIDS) in a different light than the average layman. We know that it's out there most everywhere, whether it's Marlin, Texas, or New York City," Brown said. "Various deviations from normal sexuality are everywhere. But, again, you don't expect fleas in your own home."

The Rev. Richard Hume, pastor at the First United Methodist Church, is waiting to see public reaction to the AIDS threat, but plans to make it the topic of a sermon in the coming months.

"I will talk about the issue from a human justice point of view. We still tend to, within certain segments of the religious community, think of AIDS as kind of a punishment for a particular type of lifestyle," Hume said.

"If word leaks out in the community of who these children are that may or may not have been exposed to AIDS, I'll be interested to see what the community's reaction to those children is, especially in terms of school attendance," he said.

"It's all so surprising," said Larry Wolfe, owner of a Dairy Queen not far from the house where Etheridge lived and died. "A lot of people believe this is something that would happen to everybody else. Now it's close to home. It's frightening."

Wolfe has a 14-year-old daughter who will start high school in Marlin next month.

Wolfe is not completely soothed by the medical community's confidence that AIDS cannot be spread by casual contact.

"Nobody knows," he said.

Plane lands for passenger's safety

From Staff Reports

A TranStar Airlines jetliner made an unscheduled landing in Midland Saturday morning after a passenger was found unconscious. The passenger was later treated and released from Midland Memorial Hospital, a nursing supervisor there said.

The pilot of the DC-9, which was bound for California, radioed the control tower at Midland Regional Airport shortly before 10 a.m., according to Midland Fire Department reports. An ambulance was dispatched to the airport, and the man, identified as Frank Walters of Houston, was transported to MMH, the supervisor said.

The man had regained consciousness by the time paramedics arrived at the airport. The supervisor said she did not know why the man lost consciousness.

The airliner took off for its destination after the man departed the aircraft, fire officials said.

DISPUTE

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The Mercedez Benz automobile, Augesen said, did not belong to Tyree, but to a friend who asked him to take care of it while he was out of town for a fairly lengthy period of time. The swimming pool Tyree built, which Augesen estimated cost "$11,000 to $12,000," was paid for out of some of the remaining funds he had left from the sale of his home.

It is for this and numerous other reasons, Augesen said, the holdover grand jury, after spending some 40 hours looking at evidence submitted by Garrison, issued a statement saying no evidence had been found to substantiate the county attorney's allegations of police department corruption.

During testimony before the TABC hearings officer, Lowell Lasley, Jones and Tyree each stated they believed the effort to revoke the alcoholic beverage license of the Doll's House was an effort, on the part of Garrison, to retaliate against Tyree for his part in the federal gambling investigation that resulted in the arrest of some of his close friends.

Concerning Jones' statement about retaliation against Tyree, Garrison said, "I will tell the world that Mr. Jones' testimony is simply not true."

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